

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAGR, IR

SUBJECT: MODE - AGRICULTURE/FAS PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN AN
ASSISTANT ATTACHE IN IRAN BEGINNING FY 77

1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS FORWARDED TO US EXCERPTS
FROM ITS FY 77 BUDGET PROPOSAL WHICH INTER ALIA CALLS FOR
ASSIGNING AN ASSISTANT ATTACHE TO THE EXISTING FOREIGN
AGRICULTURE SERVICE (FAS) UNIT IN IRAN.

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ADDITION, PREPARED BY FAS, STATES
QUOTE - U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THIS RAPIDLY EXPAND-
ING NATION ROSE TO 534.2 MILLION DOLS. IN CY 1974, AN
INCREASE OF 49 PERCENT COMPARED TO 1973. THE COUNTRY'S GNP
LAST YEAR REACHED 32.5 BILLION DOLS. REFLECTING A GROWTH OF
40 PERCENT COMPARED TO 1973. IRAN HAS AGRICULTURAL DEVEL-
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OPMENT PLANS OF MANY TYPES BEGINNING THIS YEAR. MANY OF

THESE PROJECTS WILL BE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOINT U.S./IRAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION WHICH WAS FORMED IN 1974. THE TOTAL LEVEL OF INVESTMENT OF THE IRAN GOVERNMENT IN THESE PROGRAMS IS NOT KNOWN, BUT ESTIMATES HAVE REACHED AS HIGH AS 5 BILLION DOLS. AND THEY WILL PAY ALL PROGRAM COSTS.

USDA WORKLOAD IN IRAN HAS MULTIPLIED WITH THE GROWTH OF OUR EXPORTS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE JOINT COMMISSION

GENERATED ACTIVITIES. FURTHER EXPANSION OF BOTH MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER USDA INTERESTS ARE ANTICIPATED. FOR EXAMPLE, IRANIANS AND USDA OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO COMMENCING A NUMBER OF JOINT COMMISSION SPONSORED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED AREAS WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE TRAVEL OF HUNDREDS OF PERSONS TO AND FROM IRAN AND THE U.S. THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE (ERS) PLANS TO ASSIGN A USDA SUPPORT STAFF TO TEHRAN TO COORDINATE THESE ACTIVITIES.

THE ATTACHE OFFICE STAFF IN IRAN PRESENTLY INCLUDES AN ATTACHE, A FOREIGN NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL AND A SECRETARY. (WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING THE REPLACEMENT OF A FOREIGN NATIONAL SECRETARY WITH AN AMERICAN.) IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT AN AMERICAN ASSISTANT ATTACHE BE ADDED. THIS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE ATTACHE TO DEVOTE AMPLE TIME TO WORK GENERATED BY JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES. EVEN WITH THE ARRIVAL OF AN ERS STAFF (REIMBURSED BY THE IRANIANS) THE ATTACHE OFFICE MUST CONTINUE TO PLAY A COORDINATING ROLE IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE EMBASSY AND THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. - END QUOTE

ACCOMPANYING TABLE INDICATES ASSISTANT AGATT WOULD SPEND ONE THIRD OF HIS TIME ON COMMODITY INTELLIGENCE, TWENTY PERCENT ON MARKET DEVELOPMENT, REMAINDER ON OTHER FUNCTIONS OF THE UNIT.

3. NEA AND EB BUREAUS HAVE REVIEWED THE FAS PROPOSAL AND DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING REACTION. AT THE PRESENT TIME ONE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IS SUFFICIENT FOR U.S. REQUIREMENTS IN IRAN. HOWEVER, IF THE LARGE AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER THE JOINT COMMISSION MOVES AHEAD; A SECOND POSITION MAY PROBABLY BE REQUIRED. THE GOI HAS HELD UP ACTION ON THIS PROGRAM, AS IT HAS ON OTHERS UNDER THE JOINT COMMISSION, AND WE CANNOT NOW PREDICT WHEN THE GOI DECISIONS WILL BE MADE. WE FEEL WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S REQUEST FOR AN ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IN IRAN ON THE EXPLICIT UNDERSTANDING THAT THE POSITION WILL NOT BE FILLED UNTIL THE JOINT COM-

MISSION'S ROLE IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE IS CLEAR AND
WE HAVE RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR'S CONCURRENCE IN THE
ASSIGNMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY
AUGUST 6 POST COMMENTS ON THE FAS PROPOSAL. SUBJECT TO
YOUR RESPONSE WE PLAN TO SHARE WITH USDA THE ABOVE NEA-EB
REACTION (PARA 3). INGERSOLL

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